

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application in view of the following remarks.

35 USC 112

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC 112 second paragraph as being indefinite. It is believed that the above amendments to the claims obviate the rejection. It is believed that the term "the centrifugation" has sufficient antecedent basis by amending claim 1 to recite "centrifuging".

Claims 5 was rejected under 35 USC 112 second paragraph as being indefinite. It is believed that the above amendments to the claims obviate the rejection. Claim 5 has been canceled since the limitations recited in claim 5 have been incorporated in claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 112 rejections.

35 USC 103

Applicants appreciate that the Examiner indicated claims 5, 22, 23 and 25 as drawn to allowable subject matter.

In order to place the claims in condition of allowance claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations recited in original claim 5 (the centrifugation step prior to stripping for removal of SO₂ or SO₃) in step a. of the claim. Thus, claim 5 has been canceled. Claim 1 has also been amended to incorporate the limitation in original claim 2 by deleting "optionally", thus claim 2 has been canceled.

In order to place the claims in condition of allowance claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the limitations in original claim 22 (removing at least a portion of the oil) Thus, claim 22 has been canceled.

It is believed that the rejection to the remainder of the claims are now moot since they now depend from the amended claims 1 and 21 that incorporates the allowable subject matter.

In view of the above amendments to the claims Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 103 rejections.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims. If the Examiner disagrees that the foregoing places the claims in condition for allowance, Applicants attorney respectfully requests an interview with the Examiner to discuss the foregoing within 30 days from the date of filing this response. If it would be considered helpful in resolving any issues in the case, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

ABRAHAM R. DE KRAKER , STEVEN A. HOLMES
and KRISHNA R. KAUSHIK

By 
Their Attorney, Yukiko Iwata
Registration No. 35,748
(713) 241-5593

P. O. Box 2463
Houston, Texas 77252-2463